

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANA 02633 130003Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 OMB-01 SSM-03 /072 W

-----028214 130014Z /72

R 120815Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1769

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 2633

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, YE, PO

SUBJECT; YEMENI/PORTUGUESE RELATIONS

1. ON JULY 11 FOREIGN MINISTER ABDALLAH AL-ASNAJ, IN DISCUSSING YEMENI SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIAN CAUSE, NOTED THAT YEMEN'S RECENT BREAK IN RELATIONS WITH PORTUGAL OVER THE PALESTINE QUESTION WAS A YEMENI INITIATIVE WHICH WAS TAKEN WITHOUT COORDINATION OR CONSULTATION WITH THE OTHER ARAB MODERATES LIKE EGYPT. AL-ASNAJ CONTINUED THAT BREAK WITH PORTUGAL COST YEMEN VERY LITTLE AS FAR AS INTERESTS WITH PORTUGAL ARE CONCERNED BUT WAS USEFUL IN PROTECTING YEMEN'S LEFT FLANK FROM ATTACKS FROM LEFTIST ELEMENTS TRYING TO ACCUSE PRESIDENT AL-HANDI OF BEING A CLIENT OF ARAB REACTIONARIES. HE ALSO NOTED WITH SOME SATISFACTION THAT YEMEN'S ACTION HAS "SHAKEN UP" LISBON GOVERNMENT WHICH IS NOW MAKING STATEMENTS REITERATING ITS SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIANS. AL-ASNAJ CONCLUDED WRYLY THAT YEMEN'S ACTION THEREFORE RESULTED IN BENEFIT FOR BOTH YEMENIS AND PALESTINIANS.

2. COMMENT: PALESTINE QUESTION ENGAGES LITTLE ATTENTION HERE. AS AL-ASNAJ'S WORDS UNDERSCORE, HOWEVER, IT IS AN ISSUE WHICH IS USED FROM TIME TO TIME NOT SO MUCH TO SERVE
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PAGE 02 SANA 02633 130003Z

PALESTINIAN INTERETS BUT THOSE OF YEMEN PARTICULARLY AS AL-HAMDI'S REGIME STRIVES TO MAINTAIN MIDDLE-OF-THE-ROAD POLICY WHILE DEFENDING ITSELF FROM ATTACKS BY EXTREMISTS FROM THE LEFT.
SCOTES

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NNN

Message Attributes

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